

ON THE VALID PUBLICATION OF *COLLINSIA VIOLACEA* NUTTALL
(SCROPHULARIACEAE)

James I. Reveal

Department of Botany, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
20742-5815 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

Collinsia violacea was first proposed by Thomas Nuttall in an 1827 textbook; it was later published in an 1835 article in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. Subsequent authors have consistently attributed the name to the 1835 reference.

KEY WORDS: *Collinsia*, Scrophulariaceae, nomenclature

While reviewing the first edition of Thomas Nuttall's (1827) textbook for vascular plant family names, I chanced to spot in a paragraph on *Collinsia* the distinctive asterisk Nuttall used to denote new species. After describing the genus and *C. verna*, the type of the genus, Nuttall wrote:

A second, and very similar annual species is found on the banks of the
Arkansa, west of the Mississippi; which I propose to call *Collinsia*
**violacea* from the peculiar hue of the corolla. In this species the
capsule contains 8 to 12 seeds.

Nuttall described the flowers of *Collinsia verna* as "beautifully particolored, the upper lip being white, the lower a fine blue." In addition he said the capsule of *C. verna* contained "only 2 or 3 seeds." Clearly, the characterization of the flowers of *C. violacea* as violet and the notation that the capsule contains 8 to 12 seeds is sufficient to validate the name. The valid place of publication and type information is as follows:

Collinsia violacea Nuttall, *Intr. Bot.* 131. 1827. - LT.: "On the hills and upland woods of the Arkansas and Red Rivers," probably along the Poteau River above Fort Smith, Le Flore Co., Oklahoma, 26 Apr 1819, Nuttall *s.n.* (BM!), designated by Pennell (1935:293, as "Type", an Art. 8.4 lectotypification; see Greuter *et al.* 1988).

Pennell (1935) indicated that there was an "isotype" at PH, but I have not seen this sheet.

Until now, the authorship and place of publication for this name has been attributed (Newsom 1929; Pennell 1935) to a later article where Nuttall (1835:179) gave a full and detailed description. Both Newsom and Pennell allude to *Collinsia purpurea* Rafinesque (1824:85) as possibly being an earlier name for *C. violacea*. Pennell even lectotypifies the name on a Dr. Christian Miller "collection from the banks of the Wabash" River in Indiana, outside the known range of *C. violacea*.

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